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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Of:  
Madhavan PISHARODI  
Serial No.: 10/644,482  
Filed: August 20, 2003  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
STABILIZING ADJACENT VERTEBRAE

§ Attorney Docket No. P-3643.2(DIV)  
§ Group Art Unit: 2855  
§ Examiner:  
§  
§

Customer Service Office in Technology Center 3700  
Initial Patent Examination  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

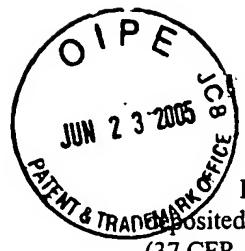
**STATUS INQUIRY**

Applicant respectfully requests the status of the above identified application. The Application was filed on August 20, 2003. An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on December 15, 2003. In correspondence dated 12/9/04, the USPTO Customer Service Office in Technology Center 3700 projected the application would be examined 3-6 months from 12/09/04. The undersigned has received no office action from the USPTO.

Respectfully submitted,  
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Thomas E. Sisson".

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Customer Service Center, Initial Patent Examination Division, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Shirley McIntyre